

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1010 (Delegate Eckardt)
Commerce and Government Matters

**Election Law - Dorchester County - Exemption of Mechanical Lever Machine
Voting System**

This bill exempts Dorchester County from State law provisions that prohibit the use of mechanical lever machine voting systems after January 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would produce a savings of \$500,000 for Dorchester County in FY 2002 since it would delay the purchase of a new voting system.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State election code prohibits the certification of mechanical lever voting machines by the State Election Board beginning in 2002.

Background: Dorchester County had been prepared to meet the requirements by purchasing a new voting system that would meet certification requirements. This new system would cost \$500,000. However, recent developments such as the formation of the Governor's Special Committee on Voting Systems and Election Procedures have prompted concern as to whether it would be desirable to purchase a new voting system before the Governor acts on the issue of election reform, because additional voting system requirements may be instituted.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 21, 2001
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